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LETTER DATED 27 APRIL 1993 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ALBANIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to attach herewith the letter that Mr. Dr. Alfred Serreqi, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Albania, addresses to Your Excellency in relation with the grave situation in the northern border of Albania, and in Kosova.

I would be grateful if Your Excellency could have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Thanas SHKURTI
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Allow me to express to you, through this letter, the deep concern of the Albanian Government about the extraordinary situation created by the Serb military forces in the north border with the Republic of Albania.

On 25 April 1993, in the time interval between 20.30-21.30, in two border zones, near the region border sign D-11, in Morine-Kukes, and in the border region C-2/10, Padesh-Tropoje, the Serb forces opened fire and killed the Albanian citizens Bohar Aden Hafizi (23), Ethem Toti Syla (24), Morsin Hysen Syla (24), Hysen Asllan Syla (31), Monsur Skender Syla (17), Astrit Dyrmishi (20) - all of them residents of the Albanian villages near the border. On 26 April 1993, in the same border area were also killed two other Albanian citizens, not yet identified.

From the verification and expertise about the circumstances of these events, it comes out that the military Serb forces have shot with fire arms against the Albanian citizens from a close position, without warning. The number of victims killed in this manner in that border only this year reaches 12 (twelve) people.

These repeated and intentional acts have arisen a deep indignation among Albanians on both sides of the border. At the same time, they represent a dangerous prerogative, which might heighten the tension and breach the peace in this region.

Our concern about these tragic events becomes even greater if we have in mind the concentration of military Serb forces in the border regions, and especially the inclusion of the paramilitary forces to guard the border with Albania. After a series of such killings now it can't be spoken anymore of sporadic border incidents, but of provocative actions, which have dangerous intentions.

Being aware of the very tense situation created by the Yugoslav crises, especially the war in Bosnia-Herzegovina, as well as the situation in Kosova, the Republic of Albania is trying continuously to give its contribution to prevent the escalation of the conflict in the south. The Albanian Government has demonstrated very clearly that it stands for stability and peace in our region. It has supported politically and is seriously committed to the implementation of the United Nations Security Council's resolutions related to Yugoslav crises.

But with regret we note that the universal principles of the human rights and those which regulate the relations between neighbouring States are brutally and openly violated by the Serb authorities. Such violations, as it seems, intend to provoke unnecessary conflicts in the territories inhabited by Albanians on both sides of the border, and probably further than that.

The Government of the Republic of Albania asks the United Nations Security Council to pay the due attention to these acts of the Belgrade authorities, and by denouncing them, take the necessary preventive measures. Consequences which derive by such an unreasonable conduct might create a dangerous situation for the region.

Hoping that our concern will meet the understanding of the Security Council which you preside.

(Signed) Alfred SERREQI